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CLINTON-DEHAENE MEETING, FEBRUARY 15, 1995

9 RELEASED IN FULL CENTRAL AFRICA

Belgium has coordinated closely with us on central African issues. Within the EU, Belgium has pushed for humanitarian aid for Africa. Current plans call for Belgium to provide 42 million US dollars in aid to Rwanda, with most of the aid to be disbursed in 1995 or early in 1996. Belgium and the U.S. have worked with the international community to provide aid to Rwanda, to address the regional refugee crisis, and to press the Kigali government to implement a program of national reconciliation in order to encourage repatriation of refugees.

The Belgians share our policy of seeking ways to reinforce the hand of moderates in Burundi. We have worked together with other interested countries and the UN to convene a refugee conference this month in Bujumbura. The conference seeks at once to find regional solutions to the refugee crisis and to demonstrate to extremists in Burundi that the eyes of the international community are focused on their country.

In Zaire, Belgium and the U.S. agree that Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo is committed to his ambitious program of political and economic reform. We both recognize, however, that Mobutu remains the principal obstacle to the democratic transition, and that he may try to block Kengo's program. On elections in Zaire, the Belgians are worried about being sucked into supporting early, unprepared elections in Zaire, which could only benefit Mobutu. The United States has made clear that we will only support a process which is credible and transparent. We will not sanction flawed elections which serve only to legitimize Mobutu anew. The Belgians provide social and humanitarian assistance in Zaire, but they have not relaunched development assistance. The U.S. provides only emergency humanitarian relief (\$25 million since 1993), working exclusively with nongovernmental and international organizations.

TALKING POINTS

- o Express appreciation for Belgium's cooperation with us in efforts to promote stability in Rwanda and Burundi.
- o Reiterate the need to continue efforts to help create conditions in Rwanda/Burundi that will facilitate refugee return and national reconciliation.
- o Note that Prime Minister Kengo of Zaire is making a serious effort to restore his country's economy and move the transition to democracy forward.
- o Emphasize that Mobutu remains the principal obstacle to democratic change in Zaire, and underline that elections in Zaire must be credible and transparent.

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SECB 6339, 7-1707

1/26/95

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